

David Chown, Miriam Pico and Laurie Sears
collaborate to make wonderful music together!

The Mission Team at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church presents the third "Concert on the Hill" of the season on September 27 at 7:00 P.M. at 8190 Lincoln Road. The concert benefits Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing (NMSH) and the Women's Resource Center. There is ample free parking.

Miriam Pico

"With her talent, spark and smile, it is easy to see why audiences all over the country rave about Miriam's unmatched vocal versatility and songwriting.

Multiple time winner of both The Northern Express' "Best Solo Artist" award and Traverse Magazine's "Red Hot Best Singer/Songwriter" award, it is easy to see why "Miriam Pico rules the nightly music scene". - Brooks Vanderbush, Traverse Bay Family magazine.

Miriam is a professional, touring singer/songwriter based in Traverse City. She began her career as a vocalist at the age of eleven, singing for weddings and church services. She has spent the past two decades fine-tuning her art; strengthening her voice, crafting new songs, collaborating with top Michigan musicians and expanding her repertoire. She averages 200 musical performances a year in various parts of the country. Miriam never fails to connect from the heart with her audiences while she weaves her blend of folk, jazz and pop into each song. Miriam is also the creator and teacher at Little Bird School of Song, a unique, bilingual music and movement class for children ages up to age five and their caregivers.

Miriam independently released 3 CD's of her original music; City Dreams (2005), I Am Myself (2010) and Travel Happy (2015) The songs on her latest album are described as "A heart-felt and whimsical collections of songs that chronicle the highs and lows of traveling through adversity. Both moving and uplifting, this album is a work of art, straight from the heart of this talented singer/songwriter."

Miriam's website: miriampico.com

David Chown

Concert pianist, David Chown performs not only in Michigan, but also in Europe. His concerts at St. Andrews "Concerts on the Hill" find him playing to a full house and rave reviews.

David's professional career spans over 25 years. His 7 CDs on his own label include his CD, "Somewhere Only We Know", his second collaboration with singer Miriam Picó. In addition to solo piano concerts and club appearances, David leads a variety band, the "Pico & Chown Band", which features some of Traverse City's top musicians. David received a Bachelors of Music degree in

Jazz Studies from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelors of Music in Piano Technology from Michigan State University. In between his college stints, David toured Europe for a year, playing concerts and clubs. David played for three years at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. He appears regularly at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club and in concerts and weddings around the state. Since settling in Traverse City David started his company "Lookout Music Productions" and owns and operates "Lookout Music Productions Studio", located at Building 50 at the Commons-Village Center, where he teaches over 40 students and records and publishes music. David is also an adjunct professor at Northwestern Michigan College, where he teaches in the Audio Technology Department.

David Chown's website: davidchown.com

Laurie Sears

Laurie Marino Sears, saxophone and woodwinds, is familiar to Michigan audiences through her work on various jazz stages, with Broadway show orchestras and with symphony orchestras throughout the state. Laurie performs with her own groups as well as with numerous other Michigan jazz artist/bandleaders in concert and festival settings, in clubs, and for school clinics, including the Building Bridges With Music program with Jeff Haas. Some national jazz and popular artists that Laurie shared the stage with include Sarah Vaughan, Mel Torme, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, Liza Minelli, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, Johnny Mathis, Henry Mancini, Sergio Mendes, Perry Como, Andy Williams, Wayne Newton, Ben Folds, Bobby McFerrin, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations and The Four Tops. As an educator, Laurie's teaching experience includes Northwestern Michigan College Director of Jazz Bands and Adjunct Instructor of Woodwinds, private lesson instruction, and the Interlochen College of Creative Arts Adult Band Camp. Prior teaching includes Grand Valley State University, and in the Chicago area, Columbia College, Concordia University, Triton College, and the American Conservatory of Music. She holds the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and the Performer's Certificate in saxophone and woodwind performance from the Indiana University School of Music.

Laurie's website: lauriemarinosears.com

The Concert on the Hill series is for the Benzie County community - residents and visitors alike. There is no admission fee. A free-will offering is taken at the intermission. Our thanks to you, our neighbors for supporting our mission projects in our joint community.

